

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

July 17, 2006

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, July 17, 2006, in the media center of the Block Island School.

Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, Richard Tretheway, and Shea Butcher. Jack Lyle was also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2006, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0, with Shea Butcher not in attendance.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2006, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0, with Shea Butcher not in attendance.

Reports

Mrs. Cole submitted a draft of the fiscal report through June 30, 2006, stating that until the books have been audit a full report will not be available. She highlighted several line items (food service, special

education director, travel, electricity) that have gone over budget. Committee members requested that real numbers be forwarded as soon as possible, but definitely before November, which was the case last year.

Richard Tretheway stated that he had a private conversation with Steve Babcock, who is hoping to offer karate classes to our students through an after school program, which would be sponsored by the recreation department next year. He stated this would be another individual sport for our small community.

William Padien reported that a letter from Mark Saccoccio to the Department of Education regarding substantial completion of the addition/renovation project and a copy of the current punch list were included in the packets. He stated that Amy Lewis will be sending an amended housing aid request to RIDE for the entire cost of the addition/renovation project and not the officially approved amount of \$8.2 million.

Mr. Padien reported that the carpeting has been removed from the music room floor and it has been prepped. The architect will design a tile pattern for the floor. The acoustic panels for the walls will be ordered shortly. It is hoped that Andy Gallison of Block Island Sails & Canvas would be able to make the curtains for the music room windows. The dust collector for the shop has been ordered and should arrive by the end of July. Currently, it is on track to be

completed before school starts. The parking lot should also be ready before the beginning of school in September.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to recommend to the Town Council to approve the payment of Invoice #19 from H.V. Collins Company in the amount of \$386,239 for work completed through May 2006, based on the information received and a strong request that the council read the memo from the Town Manager to the School Committee in regards to change order #5, carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that approving this invoice for payment would also approve change order #5.

Victoria Carson, in Mrs. Lacoste's absence, reported that the summer programs are in full swing and going very well. The custodians are making great strides in getting the building cleaned and ready for September. All the elementary classrooms have been cleaned, the floors except for those in the main corridors have been washed and waxed, and the painting is being done.

Mr. Lyle reported that a representative from RIDE will be out in early September to help us with the various components of the high school regulations. We are currently awaiting feedback on the binders that were submitted at the end of the school year.

Mr. Lyle also reported that he had very informative exit interviews with both the 8-12 coordinator and the technology coordinator last

week. One of the issues that came up during the discussion with the former 8-12 coordinator was the importance of communication, not only information from the administration or superintendent's office, but the need and ability to communicate information to the secondary staff. This coordinator position should be part facilitator and part communicator and should meet regularly with the facilitator and the superintendent to make the job more productive. The technology coordinator position has grown over the last several years and technology is now too big to handle the way it has been. The job description needs to be more specific as it is currently very broad. It was requested that a technology committee report be included on next month's agenda.

Mr. Lyle stated that he had received an email from Attorney Myers giving her initial thoughts and voicing some concerns on the reorganization of our site based management plan. She will be drafting a more formal opinion after additional information is forwarded to her for her review. She is available to meet with the committee if/when necessary.

Mr. Lyle provided more information from the students' SALT surveys. Secondary students reported that not only do they have high expectations for themselves, but their teachers and parents have high academic expectations for them as well. The students feel there is a positive school climate, clarity of expectations and rules, and positive interactions are taking place.

Mr. Lyle reminded the committee members that a date should be set for them to do a self-assessment.

New Business

A motion (Hall, Padien) to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a new agreement with James N. Nadeau and Company to complete the district's 2006-07 annual audit provided the total fee for auditing services complies with the requirements of the district's Procurement Policy carried with a vote of 4-0-1, with Shea Butcher recusing himself. It was noted that the 2006-07 audit should not exceed \$6700.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to reappoint Marsha Gutierrez as the district's School Committee Clerk for the 2006-2007 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to reappoint Steven Draper as the district's Attendance Officer for the 2006-2007 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to reappoint the firm of Asquith & Mahoney, LLP to provide legal services to the district on an as needed basis for the 2006-2007 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint the physician representative(s) of

the Block Island Health Services as the school physician(s) for the 2006-2007 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint the dentist representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school dentist(s) for the 2006-2007 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Sean McGarry as the Rhode Island Association of School Committees delegate for the 2006-2007 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the designation of Bank of America and Washington Trust Company as official bank depositories carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the designation of the Block Island Times to advertise regularly scheduled School Committee meetings and that the Block Island Times and/or the Providence Journal be designated as the district's official newspaper(s) to advertise special or interim School Committee meetings carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the designation of Chairperson and Secretary as authorized signatories of checks for the payroll and general accounts and to approve the designation of the Building Facilitator and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent as authorized signatories of checks for the miscellaneous office

accounts carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lyle submitted a memo from the Core Team recommending that a half-time teacher with a strong reading background be hired to oversee the personal literacy plan (PLP) requirements, which are required for students at risk in reading. The memo further stated that if it becomes evident more time is required to meet the needs of our students the position may need to be increased to full-time. Mr. Lyle stated that the last time he had spoken to the special education director she was supportive of a half-time position. Mrs. Carson stated that until the scheduling of students has been completed, we would not know if a full-time position was required. Annie Hall felt that the position should be full-time because of the number of students requiring assistance with reading and to also fill the void left by Ms Bochicchio's resignation. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to advertise for a full-time reading specialist for the 2006-07 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. Richard Tretheway stated for the record that he wondered why this position was increased from half-time to full-time with little or no discussion when a request for an increase in time for the guidance counselor position has been brought before the committee several years without any action.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Victoria Carson's requests for tuition reimbursement for two courses (Elementary Reading Methods and Cross Training in Sports) pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers' Contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept with regret Michael DeRosa's resignation as the school's clinical social worker effective at the end of August carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept with regret Rob Closter's resignation as the assistant varsity soccer coach effective immediately carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

Committee members continued the discussion on how to revamp the site based management system. It was suggested that a timetable be developed for implementing changes and a shadow structure be put in place for the upcoming year so there is an opportunity to work with it before it becomes contractual. Mr. Padien stated that he is not convinced of the need for two deans: one for elementary and one for secondary. He feels that there should be one person in charge, perhaps a non-union member, and it should not change with each semester. It was suggested that perhaps a full-time dean is needed with two assistant deans. Nancy Greenaway asked how an administrative body that large with a student population of 150 could be justified to the community. Mr. McGarry feels that as long as everyone has a chance to contribute it will remain site based management. A discussion was held on the pros and cons of the various organizational charts. Mr. Tretheway stated that he likes the idea of two deans. Specific job descriptions would need to be developed, including whether teaching duties would be required. It

was also questioned whether a particular certification would be required through the department of education for the dean positions.

Options for the 2007-08 School Calendar was tabled for another month. Mr. McGarry suggested that this issue be sent to the Site Council to gather input from students and parents.

Calendar of Events

The next work session with the faculty regarding possible changes to SBM is scheduled for Monday, July 24 at 3:00 P.M. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Monday, August 21.

Adjournment

A motion (Hall, Padien) at 9:15 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 8/21/2006